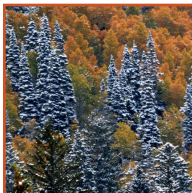


The Human Touch

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And More!

Director's Message

Last month we went through a difficult time with the Special Session at the legislature and the budget cuts. I appreciate all the support of the employees in protecting our services to people wherever possible.

We took the approach that we would look at cuts by program, not just make them across the board. I believe across the board approaches can weaken all of us. We were asked to come up with a 3% overall cut, due to state revenues being down and the general economic downturn. I took the following steps in deciding which cuts to recommend: 1) review all 75 DHS programs, 2) review efficiencies where possible, 3) stop spending new appropriations where people were not yet in services, 4) review preventive programs for cuts where not providing acute services, and 5) review acute services for cuts.

Fortunately - for this round - we were able to keep most of the cuts in the categories of administrative expenses, efficiencies achieved through attrition, or not spending new money. In some areas we did have to go into preventive and acute services, because 3% of DHS general fund is \$11 million and we do not have that much money in strictly administrative expenses. I also will not cut administrative services where it compromises accountability or health and safety, such as in licensing. It is difficult to take cuts in administration when we already lost funding in 2002-2004 that was never restored, and also utility and fuel costs go up each year, for which we are not reimbursed.

In consultation with the DHS management team we prioritized DHS programs in terms of value. Higher priority programs are those that are a) required by law, b) provide services to those in acute need, c) bring in revenue or defray expenses, d) protect immediate health and safety, e) have a proven track record of quantifiable outcomes, f) provide direct services to people, and g) have federal or other funding match. As a result



Lisa-Michele Church
Executive Director

of this analysis, several DHS programs were protected from further analysis for budget cuts.

After we presented our DHS recommended cuts, our legislative committee asked for an additional 1% cut. I could not see where we would take that additional cut. After debate, they voted to make about 2.8% in cuts, but in some cases they were made retroactive back to July 1, 2008. This gave the cuts a greater impact.

We had some great employees at the Foster Care Citizen Review Board that were de-funded completely and we are working with them to find substitute employment. Also our disabilities ombudsman was de-funded but we were able to move him back to the Division in another role. Other agency employees also suffered under the cuts and we will delay filling some positions. It is a very painful time when I know you have worked so hard to accomplish so much.

As the economy continues to have challenges, DHS may be asked to look at further cuts in the 2009 legislative session. I will keep you informed as to the strategy we are pursuing and please feel free to email me with any input you might have from the field. I appreciate the teamwork that went into the Special Session and it makes me proud that we are still able to serve Utahns with the level of excellence that you all maintain.

Cultural Competency Forum

By Lynette Willie, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Layton - Utah's Transformation of Child and Adolescent Network (UT CAN) Project's Cultural Competency Advisory Council within Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, sponsored a "Cultural Competency Forum" on October 1, in conjunction with the Fall Substance Abuse Conference at the Davis Conference Center in Layton.

Over 35 statewide representatives from human service agencies/organizations such as Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Centers, Division of Child and Family Services, Division for People with Disabilities, Department of Workforce Services, Utah State Hospital, American Indian tribes, Department of Health, Department of Human Resources Management, consumer advocacy agencies (NAMI, Allies with Families), and community advocates attended the event.

Vivian Jackson, Senior Policy Associate for the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University, was the speaker and facilitator of the Forum. The overall goal in meeting was to develop a common understanding of a culturally competent



Vivian Jackson,
Senior Policy Associate for the National
Center for Cultural
Competence at
Georgetown
University

system and to collaborate on agency and system action plans to achieve cultural competency.

Ming Wang, DSAMH UTCAN Project Director said, "Some of the issues we explored in the forum were about what is culture, who do we serve, how shall we serve them, and what should we do next?" A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to continue developing a common direction for cultural and linguistic competence among these human service agencies/organizations.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Ming Wang, mwang@utah.gov or 801-538-4276.

It's the Great Pumpkin Patch, Dale Smuin!

By Amber Buist, Split Mountain Youth Center

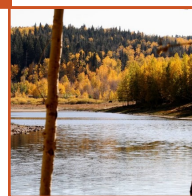
Vernal – For six years the youth and employees of Split Mountain Youth Center (SMYC) have had their very own pumpkin patch thanks to a very special employee, Dale Smuin. Smuin is a Youth Counselor and has worked at SMYC for the last 23 years. Each year he takes on the challenge of maintaining a garden for the center. Smuin incorporates care of the garden in his work with the youth by teaching them about planting, watering and the joys of weeding. Each year, Smuin starts the garden in the green house with a few little seeds, watering them daily and keeping them warm, before planting them outside.

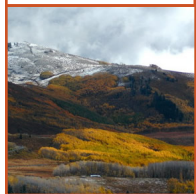
This year the garden included tomatoes, lemon cucumbers, green peppers, corn, squash, zucchini and, Smuin's favorite, jalapenos. "There were so many jalapenos this year," remarked one staff, "Everyone spent a lot of time making poppers and eating them, they were yummy and HOT!" The last few years Smuin has made the pumpkin patch his priority and loves growing 60-70



lbs pumpkins. He gives them everything they need through the summer by turning and setting them up straight and is even known to talk to them.

Today there are 31 pumpkins at SMYC. Everyone enjoys watching the pumpkins grow throughout the year and looking for the biggest, smallest or the one with the most character. SMYC would like to recognize Smuin for his hard work and effort he puts into the garden each year. Great Pumpkin Patch!





National Association of Persons in Supported Employment Conference

By Lori Giovannoni, Services for People with Disabilities

Louisville, KY - In July 2008, Tricia Jones-Parkin had the opportunity to represent Utah Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD), along with representatives from the Division of Rehabilitation Services, at National Association of Persons in Supported Employment (APSE). They presented information about the success of Utah's Supported Employment program for people who are waiting for DSPD services. Jones-Parkin presented facts and video messages from Division Directors, Representative Rhonda Menlove, and individuals who were employed and receiving support.

Several people and agencies throughout the state have worked together to provide opportunities for people who want to go to work. At the end of June 2008, 171 people were actively participating in the program and 130 were successfully employed. The two year project was so successful that legislation was passed and funding continues with a five year sunset. The creativity and innovation of this project was very impres-



sive to those that attended the presentation. "I discovered what was happening in other states, and how Utah is much further ahead in supporting people with disabilities," said Jones-Parkin, "The collaborative efforts of agencies in our state are invaluable. I realized that even though we face challenges, because we work together, solutions are created."

Unfortunately, this is one of the programs impacted by this year's budget cut; however, the clients currently involved in the program will continue to participate.

2008 Honored BYU Alumni

By Angelique Colemere, Executive Director's Office

Provo - Dallas Earnshaw, Utah State Hospital Director, was named 2008 Honored Alumni of the BYU College of Nursing on October 9. Earnshaw provided the keynote address during the awards luncheon at Hinckley Alumni Center and was later recognized at the BYU Spectacular. The next morning Earnshaw participated in the BYU Homecoming Parade, riding on a convertible BMW. "The students were actually pretty fun, but probably more impressed with the car I was riding on," joked Earnshaw. As special guests of BYU President Samuelson, Earnshaw and his family were invited to watch the Homecoming game in the Presidents Lodge.

"It was a very special and humbling experience," stated Earnshaw, "I graduated from BYU in 1986 as a nurse practitioner and have enjoyed working with the faculty from BYU in developing excellent educational opportunities for nursing students." BYU College of Nursing continues to work closely with Utah



State Hospital in developing a wonderful collaborative relationship with the nursing students in training.

Earnshaw has also been recognized as one of the first administrators to bring National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) sponsored education programs into the hospital setting and is Vice-President of the Western Psychiatric State Hospital Association. Earnshaw promoted the development and implementation of a Best Practice Model and a collaborative relationship with state academic institutions. In 1999 he was the recipient of the DHS Manager of the Year award.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Utah Department of Health

Everyone seems to know someone with breast cancer, and we wonder whether we, too, will be affected during our lifetime. Aside from skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women. Women make up more than 50% of the American workforce, and approximately 44% of those diagnosed with cancer will be employed at the time of their diagnosis. So for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, take some time to learn about your risk for breast cancer and take steps to reduce your risk.

All of us want to do everything we can to reduce the risk of ever getting this disease. There are some factors that are beyond our control. For instance, we can't change our gender. Women are much more likely than men to have breast cancer. This is mostly because women have more estrogen and progesterone in their bodies. These hormones stimulate normal and abnormal breast cell growth alike. Also, we can't stop growing older and aging is the biggest risk factor for breast cancer (besides being a woman).

But there are some things that are within our control that can help you reduce our risk of developing breast cancer. Risk reduction means making choices to avoid or minimize any possible risk factors that you can. It also means increasing the protective factors in your life so your chances of developing breast cancer are lower. There are no perfect solutions, but you can do many things to reduce your risk, including:

- Control your weight and exercise. Make healthy choices in the foods you eat and

the kinds of drinks you have each day. Stay active.

- Know your family history of breast cancer. If you have a mother, sister, or daughter with breast cancer, ask your doctor what is your risk of getting breast cancer and how you can lower your risk.
- Find out the risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy. Some women use hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to treat the symptoms of menopause. Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits of HRT and find out if hormone replacement therapy is right for you.
- Get screened for breast cancer regularly. Regular screening tests for breast cancer, such as an annual mammogram and a breast exam during your annual check-up, allow you and your doctor to ensure that your breasts are as healthy as they can be. Screening also increases the likelihood that your doctor will find breast cancer early when it's most treatable. If you want to be screened for breast cancer, call your doctor's office. They can help you schedule an appointment. Most insurance companies, including PEHP, pay for the cost of breast cancer screening tests, as well as most other preventive screenings. So there's no excuse for not getting screened!

It is important to know your own level of risk. Then you can talk to your doctor about ways to lessen controllable risk factors and boost your protective factors. Take charge of your health today!

"There is no excuse for abuse"

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

To obtain information and resources for counseling, health clinics, shelters, safe houses, support groups, police, legal services and more call:

1-800-897-LINK(5465) or 2-1-1.



Patricia Rothermich Memorial Scholarship Fund

By the Scholarship Committee Members

Salt Lake - One year after Patricia Rothermich was killed, many are doing their best to keep her memory alive. The newly established Patricia Rothermich Memorial Scholarship at the University of Utah, College of Social Work, will honor Rothermich's lifelong dedication to serving children and families.

After graduating from the U with a master's degree in social work, Rothermich spent 40 years of her distinguished career as a social worker, supervisor and teacher. She was also Regional Director of Child and Family Services.

On the afternoon of October 3, 2007, Rothermich was struck by a vehicle and died during transport to the hospital. Shortly after the incident, Rothermich's husband of eight years, Sherman Lynch, was charged with the murder. His jury trial is scheduled for November 10. "We hope that by supporting students interested in child welfare, social work graduates will be able to pick up Rothermich's work where she left off," said



Ann Cheves, Scholarship Committee Member.

A campaign to raise funds for the scholarship will officially begin with a memorial and reception on Friday, November 7, 5:30 - 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Cathedral Center (231 East 100 South in Salt Lake City). The public is welcome to attend. All donations will go directly toward the scholarship fund.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Ann Cheves, 801-363-6395.

Diverse Utah: One State, Many People

By Laurieann Thorpe, Executive Director's Office

Salt Lake - This week employees received an e-mail and desktop icon leading them to a new website, www.diversity.hs.utah.gov "Diverse Utah: One State, Many People." DHS caseload data shows that agencies are serving an increasingly diverse population. The web site was created to provide caseworkers with tools, information and resources needed to help diverse clients succeed. Research, interviews and focus groups with caseworkers and community leaders were conducted to ensure content on the site would meet caseworkers' needs when working with clients.

Five major cultural groups are featured: Latino, Asian American, African American, American Indian and Pacific Islander. Information about the refugee and immigrant populations in Utah is also on the site. The website includes cultural documentaries employees can stream online, culturally specific caseworker tips, community and training resources, interpreter information and more!

Diverse Utah was unveiled to the Executive

Leadership Team to great acclaim. In line with DHS goals, each division is required to provide cultural competency training for their employees. The site is a work in progress and will be updated regularly. Website presentations and cultural competency training is being provided statewide to employees. We hope the website will be a great tool for DHS employees and caseworkers.

For further information, contact Manuel Romero, maromero@utah.gov or Laurieann Thorpe, lthorpe@utah.gov



A Picture is worth a Thousand Words

By Kathy Searle, *The Adoption Exchange*

Salt Lake - Utah's Heart Gallery is hosting an open house on October 29 at 6:30 in the Capitol Rotunda. The unique exhibit will combine the talents of many professional Utah photographers to reflect the personalities of children in foster care waiting to be adopted. The photos show the unique light in each child—a light sometimes buried after years of neglect, abuse, and low self-esteem.

Even more unique about Utah's Heart Gallery exhibit is that the pictures were donated by the photographers. The photographs replace the typical "mug shot" in each child's file and capture the spirit and personality of each which result in more of the children being adopted. The Heart Gallery also takes the concept of adopting from foster care out into our community generating more placement resources for Utah's children.

24 portraits of 35 children will be unveiled. The Adoption Exchange, an adoption recruitment agency for Utah Division of Child and Family Services, is presenting the exhibit and will travel through out the state of Utah for the next year.

Nearly 130,000 children, most over age eight, in the U.S. public-welfare system



are waiting for an adoptive family. Some of the most difficult children to place are those of minority backgrounds or in sibling groups. And, sadly, about 30,000 children "age out" of the system every year without being adopted. For further information contact The Adoption Exchange at (801) 265-0444 or visit www.utdsfsadopt.org

DON'T FORGET TO DONATE!

The 2009 USECF Campaign kicked off October 1st and ends November 14th! Donate to a charity of your choice by visiting <http://www.usecf.state.ut.us>

For further information or questions, contact Joseph Gonzales, DHS (USECF) Coordinator at jgonzalez@utah.gov or (801) 538-8270.

REMEMBER IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU GIVE,
ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Executive Director's Awards Luncheon

By Angelique Colemere, Executive Director's Office

Salt Lake – Winners of the 2008 Executive Director's Awards were revealed at a luncheon held at Gardner Village on September 29. Prior to naming the winners, and in an Oscar Awards fashion, nominees were announced and asked to stand as Lisa-Michele Church, read highlights of their achievements. Award recipients were presented with a trophy and a cash award.

Jack Green, Child and Family Services (DCFS), was the recipient of the **Executive Director's Award** for his life long dedication to his work. Green has worked for the department for 19 years and has been involved in data systems, financial systems and internal review. He has spearheaded important accountability measures in DCFS and improved the agency's reputation. "Jack is always looking for the most effective way to provide services," stated Duane Betournay, DCFS Director, "he has a reputation for being approachable and always has a smile."

Supervisor of the Year was awarded to **Dr. Alisa Von Riotte**, Psychiatrist at Utah State Hospital. Von Riotte was nominated by her workers as a result of her creative problem solving skills when working with patients. "She is a good example to all of us," noted her staff, "She is very eloquent and yet down to earth and all can relate to her caring air." Her dedication and out-of-the box thinking has earned her great respect from all of her staff.

Brent Platt, DCFS Provo, was the first recipient of the new **Cultural Excellence Award**. Platt is the Western Region Director and he works tirelessly for children and families. In addition to all he does, he is consistently reaching out to the various ethnic communities. "Brent is genuinely concerned about



Lisa-Michele Church, Dave Thomas, Amanda Singer

how to better serve minorities," said one of his staff members, "and looks for ways to do it constantly." Platt hosted an Immersion day, designed specifically for Hispanic providers, that was successful in educating community partners about the DCFS process and impacts on the Hispanic population.

Career Achievement Award went to the infamous **Dave Thomas**. Thomas has worked in DHS for over 30 years and produces all of the media and videos in the Department. "His media work has impacts far and wide," said Jody Talbot, "Many of his photographs adorn the walls of government buildings and homes of clients." Thomas' communication skills draw people to him and he is always steadfast in providing the best service. He has made a real difference in so many lives.

Over 150 Human Services employees attended the event. Also recognized at the luncheon were employees with 20 or more years of service, including seven employees who have been with DHS for 35 years.



Lisa-Michele Church, Dr. Alisa Von Riotte, Dallas Earnshaw



Lisa-Michele Church, Brent Platt, Patti VanWagoner, Jack Green

Training Tidbits

Proper training is essential to best serving our consumers. Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:

If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there.

By Lewis Carroll

JOINING FORCES 21st Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Family Violence

November 3-5, 2008

Marriot City Center Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information go to www.preventchildabuseutah.org

Critical Issues Facing Children & Adolescents

November 13-14, 2008

Hilton – Salt Lake City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information call 801-501-9446.

HELP WANTED

Are you aware of a training or conference that we don't have listed in the Human Touch or online?

If so, please notify Angelique Colemere, ACOLEMER@utah.gov 801-538-4275.

You may also submit events online on the department training calendars, www.hstraining.utah.gov.

State Hospital –CME Training Opportunities:

Suicide and Other Risk Assessments

December 11, 2008 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Classroom 21, Heninger Administration Bldg.

Utah State Hospital– Provo

For more information contact Elaine Angulo @ 801-344-4265

Genetics and Mental Illness

December 18 2008 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Classroom 21, Heninger Administration Bldg.

Utah State Hospital– Provo

For more information contact Elaine Angulo @ 801-344-4265

Interventions with Difficult Families

January 15, 2009 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Classroom 21, Heninger Administration Bldg.

Utah State Hospital– Provo

For more information contact Elaine Angulo @ 801-344-4265